

[Sh. Ram Pujan Patel]

attention of the Government towards a most important matter. Though ours is an agricultural country but it is a matter of regret that at the time of harvesting, the prices of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables come down and when the same agricultural commodities reach the hands of traders for sale, their prices go sky-high. Now, when the potato crop is being harvested, the price of potato has gone so down that the farmers are incurring losses. In cold storage traders potatoes are being kept and not that of the farmers. The support price of wheat was fixed by the Government at Rs. 164 per quintal and at this rate, wheat was purchased at all procuring centres, but today the price of wheat is more than Rs. 260 per quintal. Similarly, after procurement of potatoes from the farmers is over, it is sold at a rate of Rs. 200 per quintal in the months of August, September and October.

Therefore, I request the Government that keeping in view the interest of the farmers and in order to see that the farmers get reasonable price for potatoes, reservation should be provided to the farmers for cold storage. Railway wagons should also be made available to them. Besides, the support price of potatoes should immediately be announced to ensure proper return to the farmers and to save them from any disappointment in this regard so that they are able to progress. It will be possible only when they get remunerative prices for their produce.

- (ii) **Need to review the orders regarding exclusion of certain works from the purview of NREP/RLEGP**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have launched two important programmes namely, the NREP and the RIEGP in rural areas. As per new guidelines issued under these programmes many public construc-

tion works like Ayurvedic dispensary, houses for Teachers, buildings for dairy cooperative societies, buildings for primary health centres, construction of additional rooms for higher secondary and middle schools, chaupals, Panchayat Ghar, etc. in rural areas cannot be taken up now.

Under these programmes, the works relating to the primary school buildings, irrigation schemes and tree plantation etc. can only be taken up as a result of which the scope for taking up the construction of many public utility works has become limited.

Therefore, I request the Government to reconsider the whole issue *de novo* and bring the above mentioned construction works under the purview of the NREP and RLEGP so that the poor families in rural areas could get employment opportunities and rural development resources could also increase.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to mitigate the sad plight of textile workers**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): In order to draw the attention of the Government to the situation in Textile industry of our country and plight of its workers particularly the growing unemployment and the sickness in composite Mills, the textile workers all over the country are staging demonstration near Parliament today, 7 March, 1988 under the INTUC-led Textile Federation. I urge upon the Government to take note of the demonstration and consider their representation and adopt the following measures in order to give reliefs to textile workers and to arrest growing unemployment in textile industry.

- (i) **Prices of cotton and other raw materials should be checked and regular supply with stabil-**

ised prices should be ensured.

- (ii) A coordinated policy whereby unhealthy competition amongst handloom, powerloom and composite mills will be avoided and whereby all the three sectors will be complementary to each other should be evolved.
- (iii) A large scale smuggling of cloth worth about Rs. 3,000 crores per year be effectively plugged.
- (iv) Before adopting the new technology, its side effects such as unemployment be avoided.
- (v) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) set up under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 should take prompt action in case of sick mills such as appointing Special Director in case of mismanagement and debarring the mismanaged company and all other units of the same company from credit facilities for a period of 10 years.
- (iv) **Need to give adequate finances to Andhra Pradesh for Putting in-well bores in Anantapur District.**

**SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** (Hindupur): Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh suffers heavily from very low rainfall and it is the area with the second lowest rainfall in the whole country. Only 14 percent of the cultivated land is irrigated with the aid of tanks and canals. The normal rainfall is 544 millimetres only but in the last decade

the rainfall was below normal resulting in the Tanks not receiving water for nearly a decade. Well cultivation is the main source of

livelihood for the agriculturists in this area, all the 55,000 wells in the district have gone dry. Hence agriculturist and rural labour is thrown out of work for most part of the year. They migrate to towns for work leaving behind the old people, children and cattle.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up a scheme of rejuvenating the wells by putting in-well bores in about two to three thousand wells per year. Its finance and infrastructure is insufficient for putting in-well bores in all the wells.

It is requested that the Union Government may take up a scheme of putting in-well bores at least in twenty thousand wells by allotting Rs. 10.00 crores during 1988-89 for this chronic drought affected area and save the farmers and farm labour from starvation and misery.

- (v) **Need to give tangible relief to the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu keeping in view the hike in prices of cotton and pure silk yarn**

**SHRIP. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) :** I wish to draw the attention of this House to the sad plight of 35 lakh handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu who are suffering from unemployment for the past six months. The reason is the unprecedented price hike of yarn. The price of cotton yarn has doubled whereas the price of pure silk yarn has trebled. Yarn is not available in the open market due to heavy export of yarn from our country. During 1985-86, before the implementation of the new textile policy, the number of unemployed handloom weavers in India was 70,000 only. But after the implementation of the textile policy, the number of unemployed handloom weavers has gone up to 1.27 lakh. 5.60 lakh handlooms are lying idle in Tamil Nadu, and 35 lakhs of handloom weavers are jobless. I request the Government of India to give tangible relief to this